

IN THE CLAIMS:

23. (Amended) A catheter system according to claim 22

wherein said vascular filter guide wire includes:

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an elongated flexible core wire having a proximal end and a distal end for insertion and steerage through a patient's vasculature to a position downstream of said lesion;

a tubular flexible shaft slidably disposed along said core wire, said shaft including a proximal portion and a distal portion disposed inwardly from said core wire distal end for placement downstream of said lesion; and

said collapsible filter coupled at one end to said shaft and at its other end to said core wire, said filter operable in response to relative displacement between said shaft and said core wire, to radially extend outwardly within said vasculature and trap particulate matter arising from the treatment of said lesion.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 8, 2002. Claim 23 has been amended. Reconsideration of the claims based on the remarks provided below is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 23 has been amended in order to respond to the Examiner's rejection. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration in identifying this inadvertent grammatical error. The amendment does not change the scope of the claim.

The Examiner rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 96/01591 to Mazzocchi. The Examiner asserted that Mazzocchi teaches a catheter, guide wire and filter. However, Mazzocchi does not teach at